



**LEADERSHIP
EDGE INC.**

God's Part and Ours

This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Acts 2:23

Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.

Psalms 119:89-91

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

I Corinthians 15:10

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,

Galatians 4:4

When we started Leadership Edge in 1993, my challenge was to discern each day what God had called us to do, ask for His grace by which to do my part, and then do it. I had no idea then what all God was going to do and how He would do it. Looking back over the first thirty years of our ministry, I see more clearly what God had in mind to accomplish through Leadership Edge. I see also that, by His grace, we've worked hard. God has had His part, and by His grace, He has enabled us to do our part (I Corinthians 15:10).

In leadership, we learn some of our most profound lessons of how God's sovereignty and man's free will always come together to accomplish God's purposes. But we see this and learn this over time and not in the moment. The Bible says that God brings things to be in the fullness of time (Galatians 4:4). So, when He determines that the time is right, God helps us see what He has done and what He has done through us as we've followed Him in the work to which He's called us.

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was a leadership endeavor that presents a fascinating interplay between God's part and ours. In the killing of Christ, people were brought around a vision, executed together on the vision, and accomplished its results. But who was the leader of it? Have we ever stopped to ponder who led in the death of Christ? From the Bible, these are all put forward as the leader: Judas, the Jewish leaders, Satan, Christ, and God the Father.

Acts 2:23 is an exquisitely rich explanation of who led in the death of Christ. There we learn that it was co-leadership. The Jewish people (especially their leaders) crucified and killed Christ—and Christ was delivered up to be crucified by God's definite plan and foreknowledge. In this most important moment in human history, God had His part, and He enabled and allowed man's part. And according to Scriptures like Psalm 119:89–91, even the death of God's Son was by God's appointment and served His purposes. Wow, what a reality to ponder!



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Acts 2:23 records the moment when God reveals what He has done and what He has done through others related to the death of His blessed Son. At that moment, God's imperfect messenger, Peter, declared it to the people. And we still marvel at it today.

The wonder of God working His will through His actions and through ours brings me to worship Him and deepens my dependence upon Him. I long for my free will to be bathed in His sovereignty and fueled by His grace. We lead best when we are keenly aware of God's part and ours—praying for both and going after the part to which He's called us. All for His glory and honor.

For Reflection

1. Spend a few minutes prayerfully meditating on Acts 2:23, Psalm 119:89-91, Galatians 4:4, and I Corinthians 15:10. Ask God to speak to you from these passages about what they say and how they speak to your life and leadership.
2. Do you have any confusion in your core relationships, marriage, family, career, community, and church as to what is God's part and what is yours? Take note of any points of confusion, and ask God to give you clarity. Look for him to guide you from His Word and perhaps from conversations with other Christians around you.
3. Reflect on places where you can now see more clearly what God has been doing and how He has empowered you to do your part. Worship Him for this. May the goodness of His faithfulness in your life and leadership fuel your devotion to following Him today.